



## VIC CHESNUTT

Drunk

TEXAS HOTEL 22 • 1994, 38:32

Performance ★ ★ ★

Sound Quality ★ ★ ★

One of the charming finds of the recent Sundance Film Festival was a short documentary called *Speed Racer: The Life and Times of Vic Chesnutt*. It presented this singer/songwriter as a charmingly acerbic, angry, funny, eminently likable guy who also writes some damn fine tunes.

Anyone who sees it is likely to want one of his albums and they'll probably come across his latest, *Drunk*, a lo-fi, low-key affair. Chesnutt plays guitar and gets across his songs with a minimum of fuss—the odd ukelele or Syd Straw vocal provides all the drama he needs.

He sings in a strangled, affecting voice about the deeply serious (“When I Ran Off and Left Her”) and the deeply silly (“Drunk,” in which he is, and she knows it). Some of his

reviews throw around weighty names, with comparisons to Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen, but I don't think Chesnutt will be setting the world on fire any time soon. He seems to be having too much fun making up songs and goofing around to bother with all that.

—Michael Giltz